being open. I want to get a clarification on this point, i want to understand what exactly you mean by it. ' Secondly, what is the cost per square . foot? The rent seems to have risen up J to 60 paise per square foot. What is the construction cost per square foot of such godowns? Thirdly, we all know that we are privatising the economy and, therefore, getting the go-downs built by the private sector. My question is that if the private sector can get loans from the banks to fctiild godowns, what prevents the jovernment to secure the funds from the banks and construct their own godowna?

SHRI AJIT PANJA ; Taking the last question first, I would say that the Government is also constructing godowns. The State agencies are also doing that. But the difficulty that the Government faces is regarding acquisition of land. The private parties arrange their own land and they don't have the problem of delay in the acquisition of land. So far as construction cost per square foot is concerned, it is not available with me. If the hon. Member wants, I shall certainly give it to him.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Have you got any idea about the construction cost?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister cannot afford to have any guess.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : It is-not a guess exactly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants to know what will be the approximate cost per square foot.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir. we have not calculated the approximate cost per square feet. But we have calculated that so far as the new type of construction which we have asked for in the advertisement is concerned, it is about 96 paise per square feet in the rural areas and we are giving them Re. 1/- as rent. So far as the urban areas are concerned, it comes to Rs. 1.04 per square feet per month for a godown and we are piving them a little over one rupee because municipal taxes are to be paid.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Sir, I am surprised to find that even though the cost per sq. ft. is 96 paise only, the Government is giving 60 $pais_e$ per sq. ft. per month. I would like to know from the honourable Minister when this rate of 33P p_{er} sq. ft. was fixed that is, in which year it was fixed. I would like to know one more thing. .Here it has been said that they are giving more than 60 P in certain cases. What is the maximum rent per sq. ft. after July 1984?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, from 33P to 60P is the range up to which the Zonal Manager under certain parameters laid down will fix the rent. With regard to the rent of 60P, if the General Manager finds in certain places that huge stock is coming in— as I said earlier, we have to arrange within eight weeks—he has the discretion at that time, under certain parameters, to exercise his discretion judiciously and increase the rent, If necessary.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI . Sir, earlier it was 33P and it has now been increased to 60P. I would like to know when this rate of 33P was fixed.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, it has not been increased to 60P. As I explained earlier, the rate is 33P at the lowest level and at the highest it goes up to 60P and the rate is fixed within this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Matto.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Sir, we in Kashmir are rice-eaters, as you all know, just like the people in your State. I had been to Kashmir recently and came only yesterday. There, Sir, last week I saw that the rice supplied there was very bad because of faulty storage arrangements. When I made enquiries. I was told

that the decay that had set in in rice was because of the bad storage. Incidentally, Sir, I had been to Khanna in Punjab last year and I myself saw bags of wheat and rice on the roadside, lying without any shelter or cover. Will the honourable Minister assure us that till such time as the construction of godowns by the Government is compelted, he will see to it that the storage accommodation is hired from private parties and no problem arises on account of storage?

SHRI AIIT PANJA: Sir, the honourable Member is a a rice-reater and so am I, and you are also a rice-eater, Sir. So. where i_s a triangle now.

So far as the storage is concerned, I can say that although the covered storage is not available everywhere, we have taken steps to keep it in the CAP system and also hire private storage accommodation. I can only give this assurance that there will be no difficulty for storage according to the standard now being laid down by the FCl.

MR. CHAIRMAN ; Yes, Mr. Jadhav.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Sir, in his answer in (d) and (e), the Minister has stated that «Jie Corporation hired storage capacity from private parties. This i_s has already stated. It has also been said that the cost of storage has increased from 33P to 60P. I would like to know from the honoura>-ble Minister what the proportion i_s of foodgrains which are stored in the private $godown_s$ and what th_e proportion i_s of the foodgrains which are stored in the FCl godowns.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to know what the cost of storage is i_n respect of priva'e $godown_s$ •and what the cost is in respect of the FCl godowns.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, with regard to the second portion of the question, I have no figures with me now. But so far as tfc_6 total covered storage capacity available with the FCl is concerned, anc so far as the all-India private godowns are concerned, it i_s 28.4 lakh tonnes. Other private $godown_s$ is 20.6 lakh tonnss; Central Warehousing Corporation is 20.1 lakh tonnes, the State Warehousing Corpo ration—26 lakh tonnes; State Government; —7.5 lakh tonnes; and the totaj comes *k* 108.10 lakh tonnes. This j_s hired. S_0 far as t*he all-$lndi_a$ capacity of covered sto rage is concered, FCI's own is 103.4 lakh tonnes; all-$Indi_a$ and hired comes to 108.1 lakh tonnes, $_{as}$ i $_{sa}$id; and thc-total is 211.5 lakh tonnes.

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SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVARAO JADHAV: Sir, he has not said anything about the cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. He has given a good answer. Yes, Dr. Mahishi.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MA-HISHT: The Government has allowed the $constructio_n$ of godowns by the private sector. May i know ho_w many $_0$f the private parties were allowed and how many of them were completed within the given time? And how many have come under the custody of the Government. What i_s the total rent the Government Is paying for those constructed in the private sector as on today?

SHRI AJIT PANJA; So far as private old and new ones are concerned, there is a differenc So far as the new ones $_a$re concerned, a_s already answered, 828 ap-plications were received Construction has not yet started.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Sir,] $_W$as asking about the oW godowns which are allowed to be, constructed by the Government. There was delay in the construction. How many of these godowns have come under the possession of the Government and what is the rent that is being paid which are in possession of the Government?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So for as the rent is concerned, I have already answered it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. Panicker.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Sir, various factors retard the functioning and sap the vitality of FCl. These include non-availability $_0$f adequate storage

capacity, damage or deterioration of quality of foodgrains stored in the open pilferage during storage and movement, wrong weighment in connivance with the officials and payment of exnorbitant rates for supply of material. Last year R». 22 crores of rupees were drained off from Punjab alone because the price paid for wooden crates was two-and-a-half times higher than that paid in 1984. I would like to know as to what steps have been taken to check ths losses on these accounts.

SFTtI AJIT PANJA: Various steps have \£en taken. The main problem is that jf there is no adequate storage capacity covered, then the losses take place, as also in transit, Sir. Steps have been taken. The first one is that We are releasing as much possible through covered railway wagons so that the loss in that respect is not t'here. So far as the administrative portion is concerned, steps have been taken, and whenever any complaint comes to notice immediate steps are taken. Thirdly, the States have been directed to have surprise checkes in respect of their arrears so that the difficulties could be minimised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question: 182.

Purchase of jute by West Bengal Government

•182. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fart that the Central Government have decided to permit monopoly procurement of juts by the Government of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, how much money was offe red by the Central Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No such propsal has been received from the State Government of West Bengal.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of the fact that there had been a crash of raw jute prices last year and distress sale took place on a mass scale and purchase by the Jute Corporation of India could not hold the market price at the stationary levels, and in view of the fact that the present market price of raw jute this year con inues to be Rs. 210 to Rs. 215 per quintal, that is, about Rs. 70 below the statutory price, what steps the hon. Minister has considered o protect the intrests of jute growers in this regard and whether the Government is considering the question of monopoly procurement of raw jute, either by the Centre or the States and make the purchase of raw jute by the industry from the Government agency compulsory? Is Central Government ready to advance money for this to the States.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, this year we have purchased over 27 lakhs of bales of raw jute, and this 'S the highest ever purchase made, and the purchase is still continuing. The total production is estimated between 95 and 107 lakhs of bales. Unfortunately, there has always been an erratic production in jute. That creates all the problem. Our estimate is that if the production i« at the level of 70 to 75 lakh bales then there will be no distress sale. If there ;s a distress sale, Sir, We have ensured that the minimum support price comes into operation wherever price start falling in the market. The centres have been opened by the J.C.I, as well as the cooperative centres for making these purchases. As regards the monopoly procurement, as I have already said, the Central Government has no intention of entering into monopoly procurement. And it is a very massive operation which has to be done and if the State Governments are interested and if they consider themselves to be well equiped for monopoly procurement, they might consider this question.

SHRT GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: While contesting the statement made by the honourable Minister I only produce a press clipping saying, "Jute prices crash, distress sales by small farmers". Therefore, whatever might have been the procurement and purchase by the JCl that has been loudly announced, there has been a distress sale of raw jute on a mass scale

througouf the country and Government has failed miserably to protect the interests of 40 lakh jute workers. Therefore, the question is we are not interested in listening to how much thev have purchased but we are interested in knowing what steps the Government proposes to take this year also the distress sale does not take place as has happened last year.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: We will ensure that procurement °f raw jute is done according to the prices announced by the Agriculture Ministry and all the centres are well equipped to start purchases as soon as juts starts arriving in the market..

MR. CHAIRMAN: I_s there any distress sale by the small farmers?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: We have made announcements over the radio, the television and through the local media that nobody should make distress sale of the comodity because we ar_e there t_0 purchase all that jut_e which is brought to the centres by the producers and not the middlemen.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Everybody will agree that jute industry is in deep crisis. Now the Minister said that the ICI is not going to undertake monopoly purchase of raw jute and he added that if the States want, they can do it at their level. Now the industry is in such a crisis where not only is production of raw jut_e and its export affected by tft_e policy of the Government now they are also importing synthetic fibre and that is a^{lso} competing with jute. Now, considering all these aspects of the crisis in jute industry, I would like to know whether the Government is now at 'east prepared to consider the demands put forward by various quarter, including the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal and various concerned organisations for nationalisation of jute industry, including raw Jute trade. The Minister soid the $State_s$ may undertake monopoly purchase of raw jute, pending nationalisation, if the States support moncpolv procurement. In that case, will the Government of India provide the necessary advance to the States so ^{tna}t they ca_n build up administrative apparatus and infrastructure for monopoly purchase of raw jute?

MR. CHAIRMAN: H_e ha_s Said already Government has no such intention. What is the use of repeating th_e point?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN; I entirely agree with the honourable Member that the synthetics are replacing the jute and it is a'so a fact that 80 per cent of the synthetic material i_s imported. Therefore, we have taken it up wiJi, the Industry Ministry that this synthetic pro' duction should be controlled i_n such a fashion that it does not damage the jute industry. But at th© time I would certainly like to assure the honourable Member that th_e Central Government has no intention of providing any monetary support to State Government or procurement of jute on a monopoly basis.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मान्यवर, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या जूट उत्पादकों को उनके उत्पादन मूल्य के अनुसार मूल्य नहीं मिल रहा है ? . . . (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: We have made it very clear on more than one occasion that we have no intention of nationalising the jute industry.

National Consumer[1] Cooperative Federation

•183. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA :

SHRI S. W. DHABE:t

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards reports of corruption against National Consumer Cooperative Federation that ap-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. W. Dhabe.

appeared in the recent issue of "Rabi-war and inuian oo&erver;

tbi wnetner Government have instituted any inquiry into me ma.ter; and

icj if so, wnat are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS IKY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AINU CIVIL SUPPLIES (SURI AJIT PAINJA): (a) to tc) Yes, Sir. A state* men., is iaid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Reports of corruption against NCCF that appeared *in ihe recent issues of "tRtivivar" and "Indian Observer"*

The reports that appeared recently in "Kavivar" and "Indian Ouserver' refer to non-impimeniation of recom mendations contained in the report of Join. Secretary in the Department of Civil Supplies by the Naiional Co operative Consumers' Federation (NCCF), amassing of huge pro perty by the President, NCCF, allegations against certain officers of NCCF for their alleged involve ment in corrupt practices, CBI case against some officers of NCCF for supplying inferior quality of pulses by NCCF to Food Corporation of India, hiring of accommodation in Bombay with some ulterior motives, smuggling out rice worth crores of rupees through a private party fraud ulently in the name of NCCF and mis use oi controlled cloth.

2. So far as the non-implementation of the recommendation contained in the Joint Secretary's report is concern ed, it has been reported by me NCCF that the Federation has already taken steps for implementation of the recommendations. So far as the allegations against President, NCCF regarding amassing of huge property ire concerned, action has been taken by the Government. NCCF has reported that they have initiated investigation and disciplinary action against officers whose names are figuring in the reports. As regards aiiegatiojis of sup-

ply of inferior quality of pulses to jf'ooa computation oi muid oy me NccF, tne Government on receipt oi some compicUii ts¦ nas cuicaujf a.»«.ed Ino ceuucu jjurcau 01 Juvc^iid.^i to investigate tne ma.ter. in itgaid vO Puxcnaae Oi premises at JOoinOuji,

tne uaver.iment nas aii.ei-i.cci u»e INCCF not to vacate tne existing pie niises and acu,une new aci-oiii.nOvia tion. NccF has miormed mat a private party unautnoiiseuiy expoiiea aoout aouu MXs ot rice using tne name ot MUJT. A criminal case nas kieui med Dy tne *n*^\~£ in tne court or uniei Metropolitan magistrate, uom-hay# against tne party invoiveu. ns regards misuse ot couuuneu ciutn, tne Co v eminent oi inula on receipt or certain complaints on its own initiative asked the central jouieau oi investigation to eno.uue into tne matter.

Srlnl S. W. DriA.BE *:* Sir, this is a very serious uiauex wnciti a^e^a-.ions are niaue and me ft*P<wt vvas

there with the Joint Secretary tnat the - fresii-tent ox tne ndiujui uu u^tf~ mer Co-opera.ive neueia.ioii auiaaaea huge property. Allegations are aaiv there against .certain omcei's i-r involvement m corrupt practices. &r, this JN^Ci*' is a very important Feue-raion, and it has oecome a cesspool of corruption. I would like to kuow from the Minister as to when this report was received by the Government. In para 2 of the statement, it has been stated that "so tar as the allegations against the President NCCF regarding amassing of huge property are concerned, action has been taken by the Government." May I know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken and whether the person continues to be either the President or the Director of the Federation?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, so far as ihe Joint Secretary's Report referred to by the hon. Member is concerned, there is no mention about the allegations aginst the President..

SHRI S. W. DHABE : When was it submitted?